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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU™

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TM

**SHANG-CHI--
LOCKED IN
A DEATH
BATTLE WITH
THE CAT!**



FINAL COMBATS!



STILL MORE BAD NEWS

THIS SUMMER

THE BAD NEWS BEARS WILL BE BACK
IN THEIR ALL NEW FILM COMEDY



© 1977 Paramount Pictures Corporation

SEE IT THIS SUMMER AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

FINAL COMBATS

I AM NO
LONGER
JULIETTE'S
PROTECTOR.
I HAVE GROWN
TIRED OF
HER.

I NOW WISH TO
JOIN YOU, KOGAR--
FOR OUR MUTUAL
PROFIT.

"I LIE."

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / BRUCE D. / JEAN SIMEK - LETTERER / ROGER STERN / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / PENCILER / INKER / PHIL RACHE - COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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BUT... WHAT DOES SHANG HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH, CLIVE? SURELY KOGAR WILL NEVER AGREE.

MAYBE *NOT*, LEIKO, BUT LET'S JUST CROUCH DOWN IN OUR SECRET RINGSIDE SEATS AND SEE...



VERY WELL, SHANG-CHI. I *ACCEPT* YOUR UNORTHODOX APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT.

SKLAR, SHOW HIM TO HIS NEW QUARTERS.

YES, KOGAR.



WHEW! *THAT'S* A BLOODY LOAD OFF MY MIND. DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CHINAMAN'S UP TO-- BUT I FIGURED KOGAR WOULD WANNA *BUT* HIM RIGHT HERE AN' *NOW*.

RIGHT THIS *WAY*, HEE HEE HEE.



ARE YOU *SURE* KOGAR'S BASE IS HIDDEN BEHIND THAT *WATER-FALL*, CAT?

MY CONTACT HAS NO REASON TO *LIE*, PAVANE.

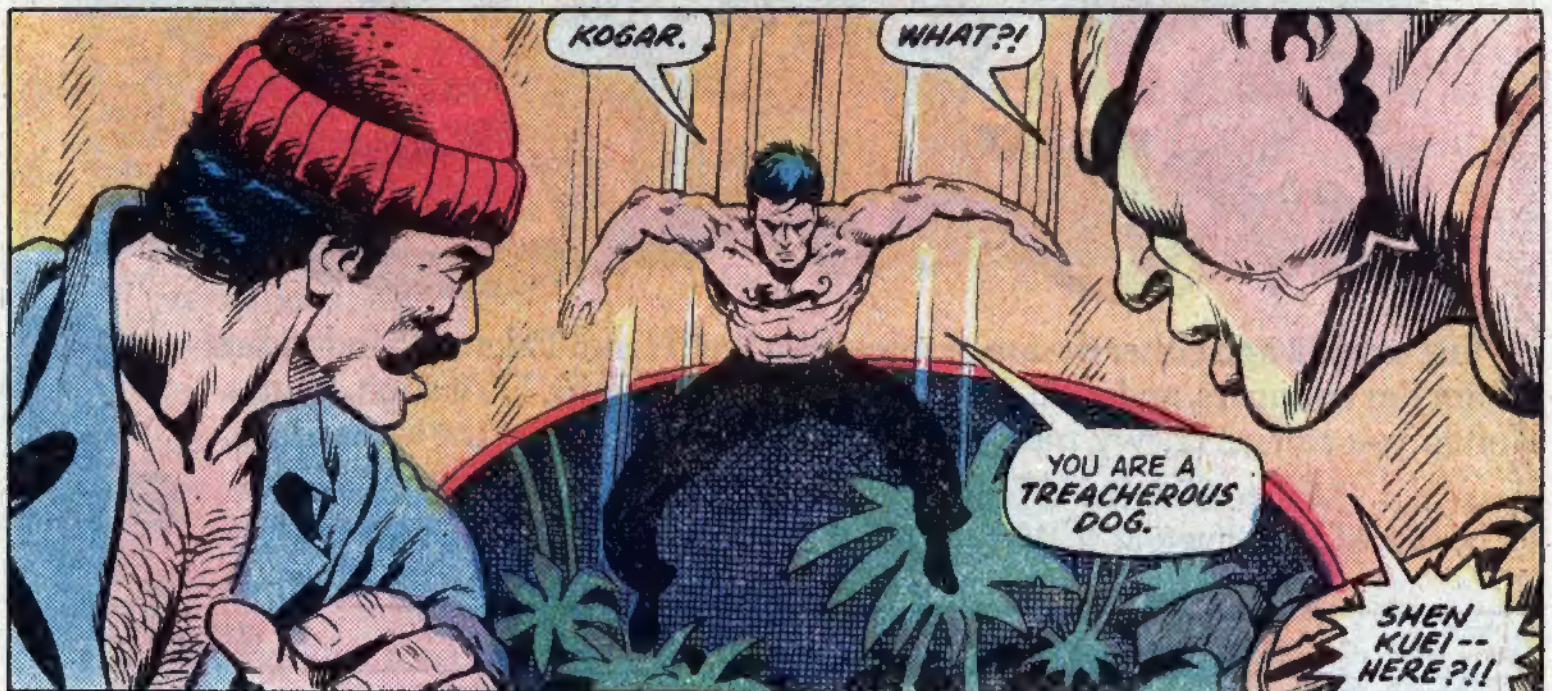
AND NOW, YOU WILL WAIT *HERE*-- WHILE I SETTLE DEBTS OF *TREACHERY* WITH KOGAR.



THE CHINAMAN'S A *GOOD* MAN, KOGAR-- GLAD YOU DECIDED TO *ACCEPT* HIM.

I'D WAGER YOU *ARE*, BLACK JACK BLUE--

-- BUT WOULD YOU BE *JUST* AS GLAD IF I TOLD YOU I *LIED* TO YOUR FRIEND?



I SURE COULD
USE SOME
EXTRA CASH.

**CHRIS HAD
A PROBLEM.**

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CONT TRAI

EARN PRIZES TOO

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CHOOSE FROM.
THE MORE PAPERS
YOU SELL, THE
BETTER THE PRIZE.**

A FEW WEEKS LATER

WHO'S FOR A
DOUBLE BURGER?
MY TREAT!

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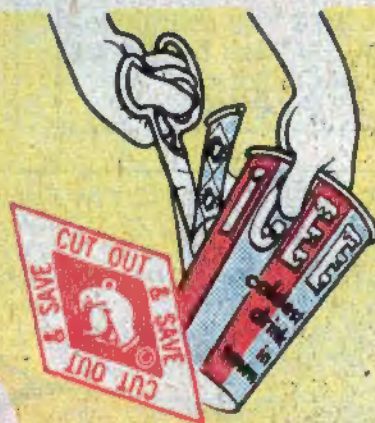
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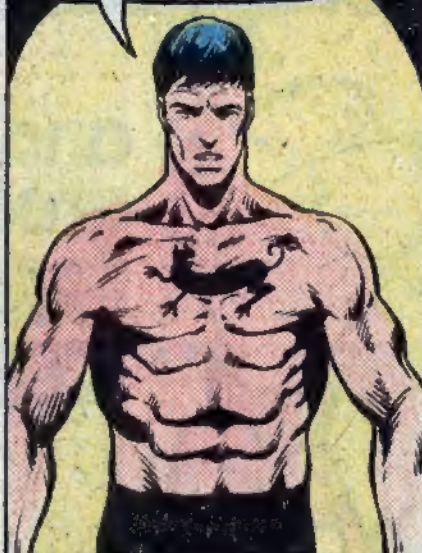
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BUT OF COURSE, A MAN OF CATS' SHADOWS WOULD EASILY SLIP PAST MY CLUMSY GUARDS. I PRESUME YOU'VE COME TO LODGE A PROTEST--



--OVER THE OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN GOODS WE ONCE SOUGHT AS PARTNERS?

I HAVE COME ALONE, KOGAR. IF YOU HOLD ANY HONOR SACRED, YOU WILL AGREE TO SETTLE OUR CONFLICTING CLAIMS IN A TRIAL BY COMBAT... ME AGAINST YOU, OR YOUR BEST MAN.



THEN IT WAS CAT WHO DAMAGED THE POWER GENERATOR. WE SHALL HUMOR HIM, SKLAR, AND PERHAPS ELIMINATE TWO NUISANCES WITH A SINGLE GAMBIT.

GO GET OUR NEW ALLY.



YES, KOGAR.

YOU SAY YOU HAVE COME ALONE, CAT. I SAY YOU LIE. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE TRESPASSERS IN THIS GROTTA-- YOU, SKULLCRUSHER, AND PAVANE, PERHAPS?



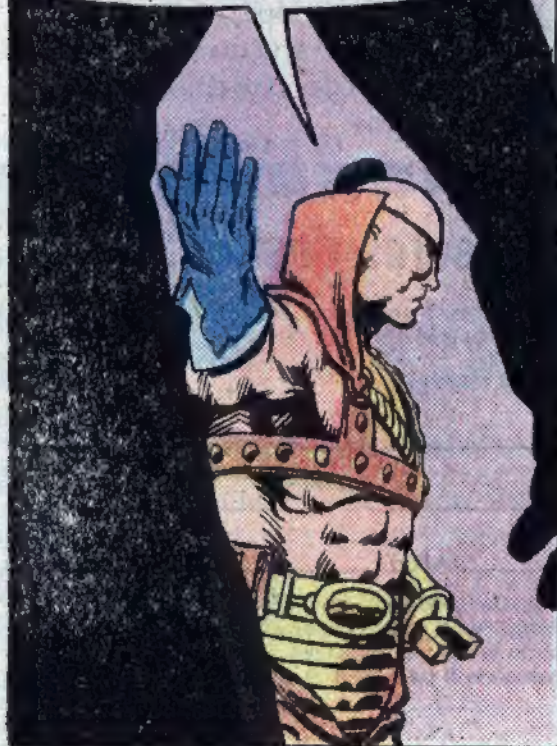
YOU ARE A TRAITOR, KOGAR, BUT SKULLCRUSHER IS MERELY A FOOL.

I WAS ILL-ADVISED TO ALLY WITH YOU, BUT I WAS WRONG TO EMPLOY SKULLCRUSHER. I HAVE NOW RIGHTED THAT WRONG. HE HAS BEEN DISMISSED.

AND PAVANNE IS INJURED.



VERY WELL, CAT, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, WE SHALL CONCEDE YOU ARE ALONE-- AND WE SHALL PIT YOU AGAINST MY BEST MAN...



...SHANG-CHI.



"SHEN-KUEI, HE WHO IS KNOWN AS CAT...

"...THE ONLY MAN I HAVE EVER FACED IN COMBAT WHO WOULD HAVE BEATEN ME.



I BELIEVE YOU HAVE MET?

YOU SEE, CAT? I WAS **WRONG** TO CONDEMN SKULLCRUSHER'S FAILURE IN LONDON. HAD HE **SUCCEEDED** IN THE MISSION OF MURDER I DELEGATED--

--THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO SLAY SHANG-CHI COULD NOT NOW **PRESENT** ITSELF.

NO. THOUGH I HAVE REASONS TO WANT THE BRITISHER **DEAD**, HONOR FORBIDS ME TO **PERSONALLY** KILL HIM.

NOR WILL I TRY TO KILL **SHEN KUEI**. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF **HONOR**-- THERE IS SIMPLY NO **REASON**. I WILL NOT ENGAGE IN THIS **FIGHT**.

OH, BUT YOU **WILL**, MY NEW ALLY, UNLESS YOU WISH TO SEE THE COLOR OF BLACK JACK BLUE'S **BRAINS**.

AND YOU, CAT, DO YOU REALLY WISH TO **FORFEIT** YOUR CLAIM TO THE **GOODS**?

BESIDES, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT SHANG-CHI HELPED JULIETTE KILL YOUR **BROTHER**?

I HAVE **NOT** FORGOTTEN.

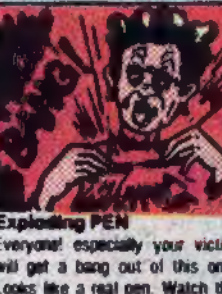
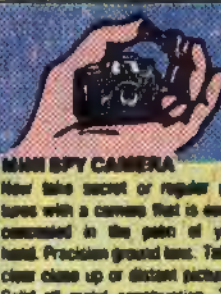
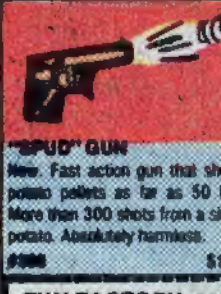
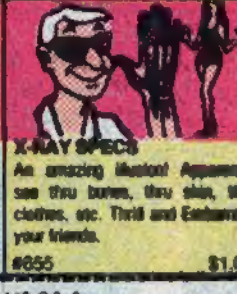
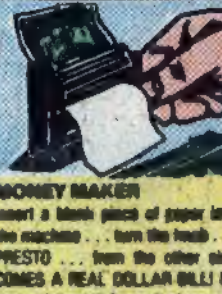
THEN, SURELY **THAT** CANCELS ANY PAST DEBT OF **HONOR**?

YES...

"NO.

... PERHAPS ALL HONOR HAS LONG SINCE **DIED**.

"HE MUST NOT ALLOW KOGAR TO DARKEN THE VISION OF OUR **HEARTS**...

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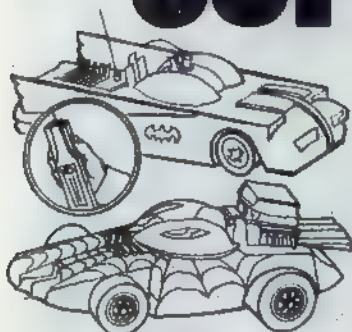
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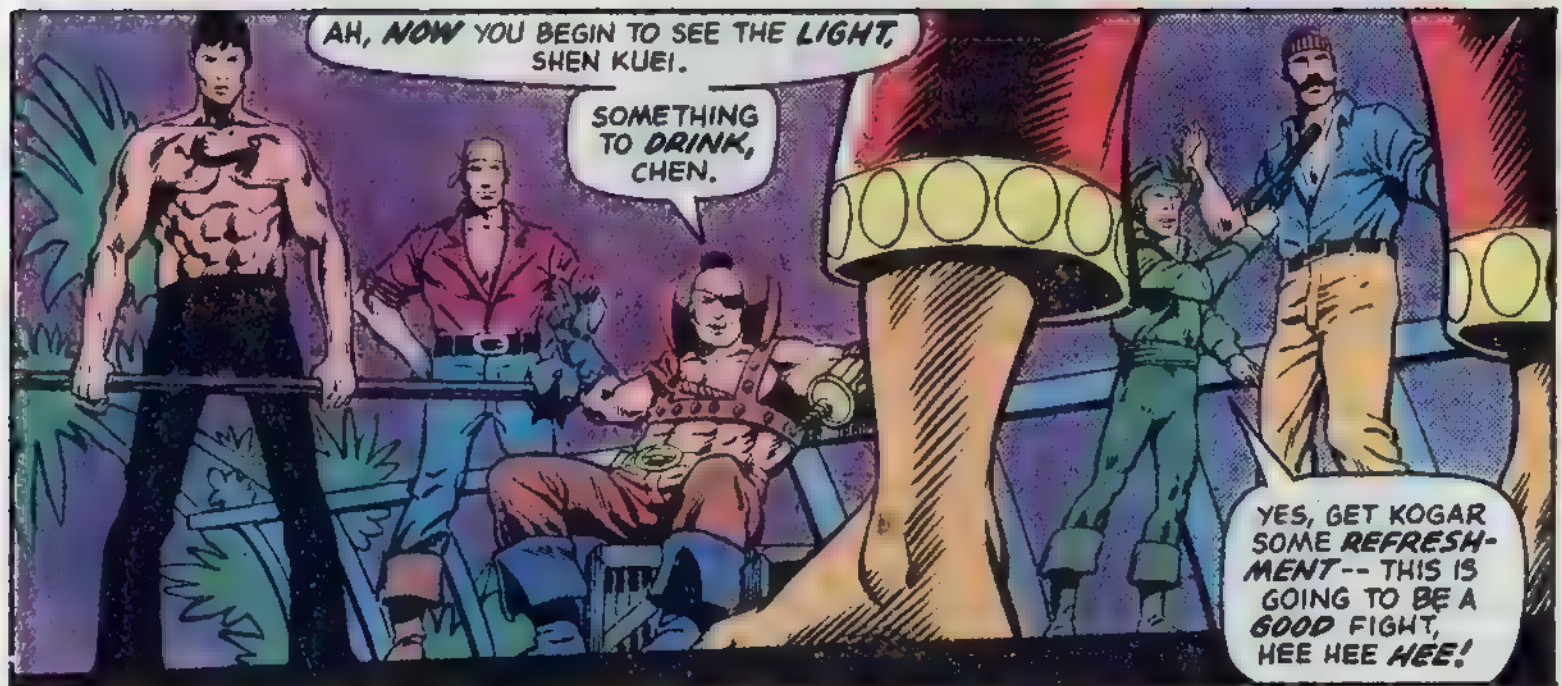
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The cars are in full color, 12 inches long.

They're yours for just \$12.95 each, with 12 wrappers from any of the Holloway or Clark candies.

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Just be sure you don't get any super-speeding tickets.



AH, *NOW* YOU BEGIN TO SEE THE *LIGHT*, SHEN KUEI.

SOMETHING TO *DRINK*, CHEN.

YES, GET KOGAR SOME *REFRESHMENT*-- THIS IS GOING TO BE A *GOOD FIGHT*, HEE HEE HEE!

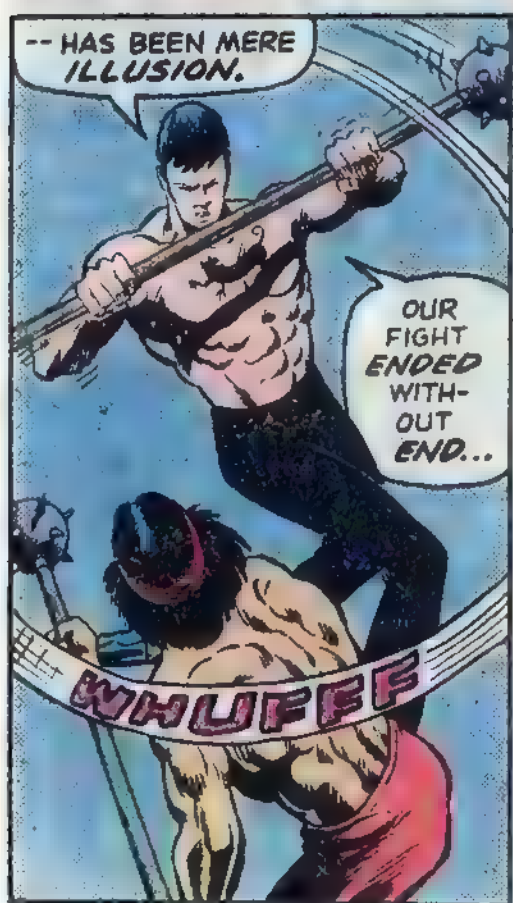


"NO, IT CAN ONLY BE AN *EVIL FIGHT*, FOR HIS HEART IS *ALREADY... BLIND*.

THE PAST HAS BEEN A *LIE*, BRITISHER!

EVERY MOMENT SINCE I TURNED MY *BACK* TO YOU ON THAT *BEACH*--

FRACK



-- HAS BEEN MERE *ILLUSION*.

OUR FIGHT ENDED WITHOUT *END*...

WHUFFF



...AN END THAT MUST COME *NOW*, PUTTING THE *LIE* TO EVERY MOMENT SINCE.

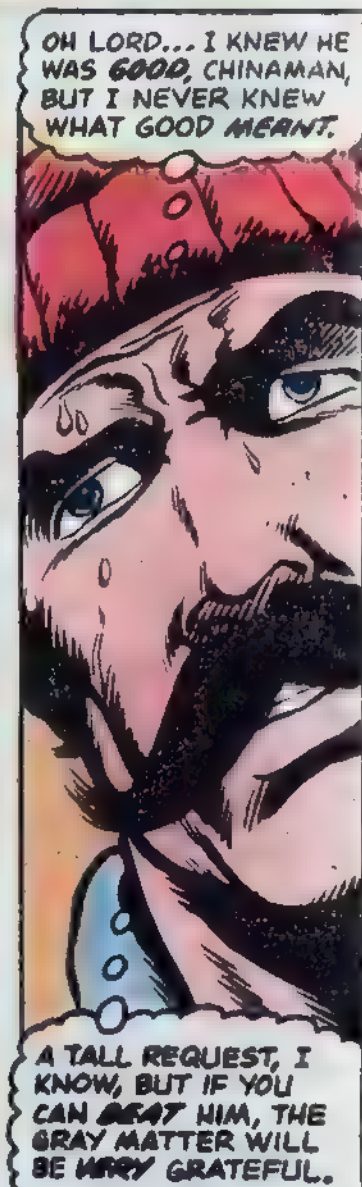
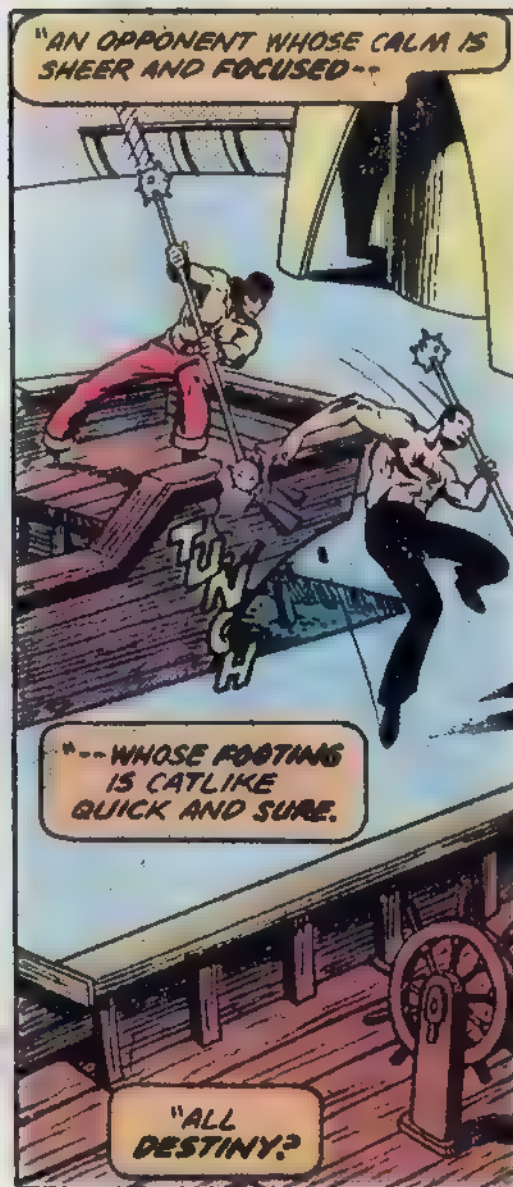
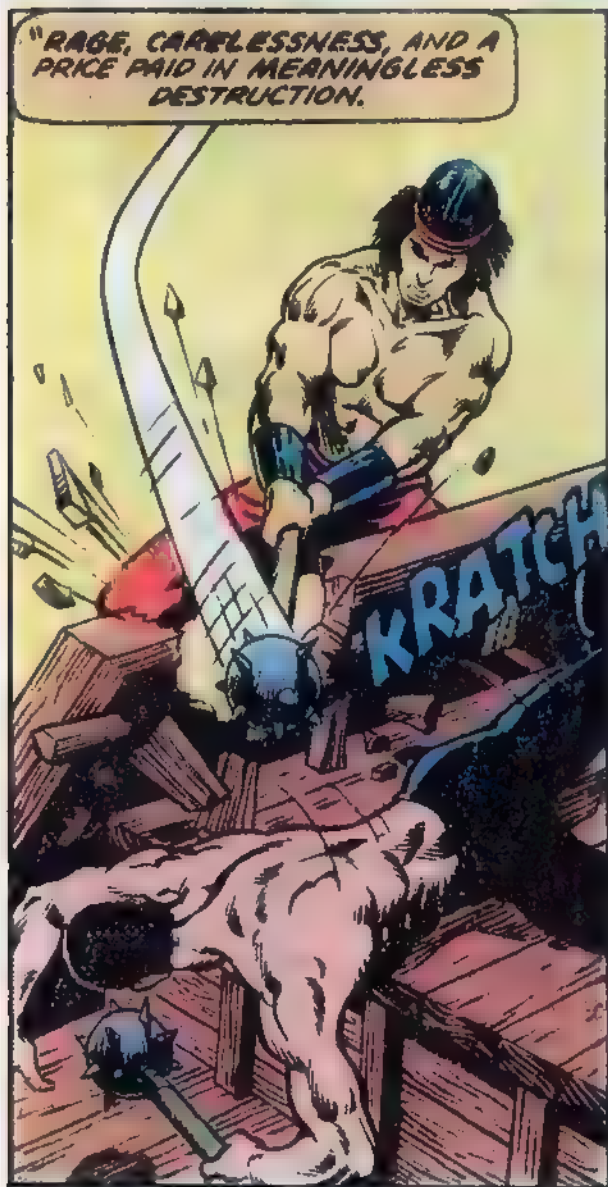
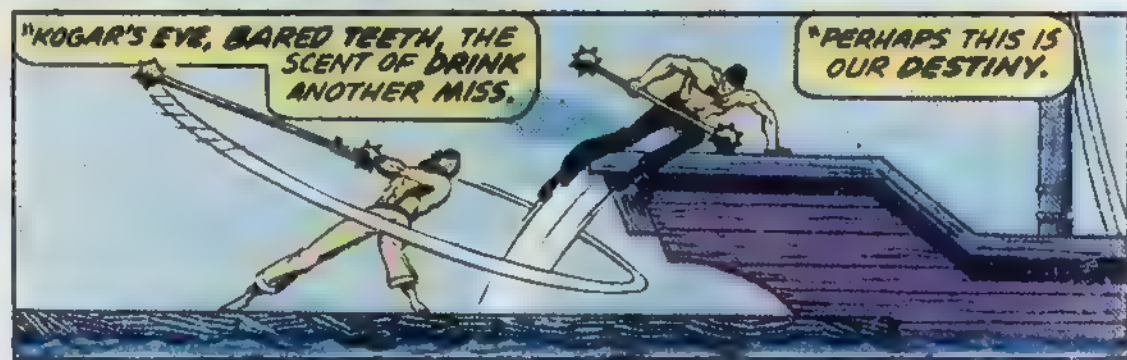
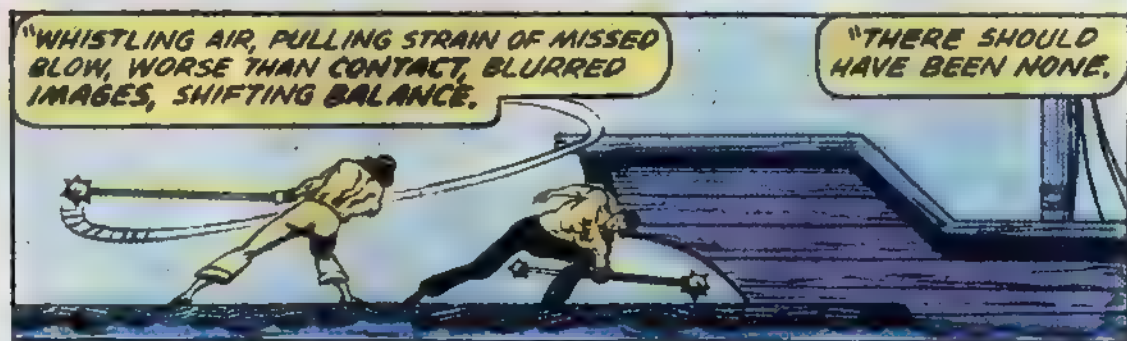
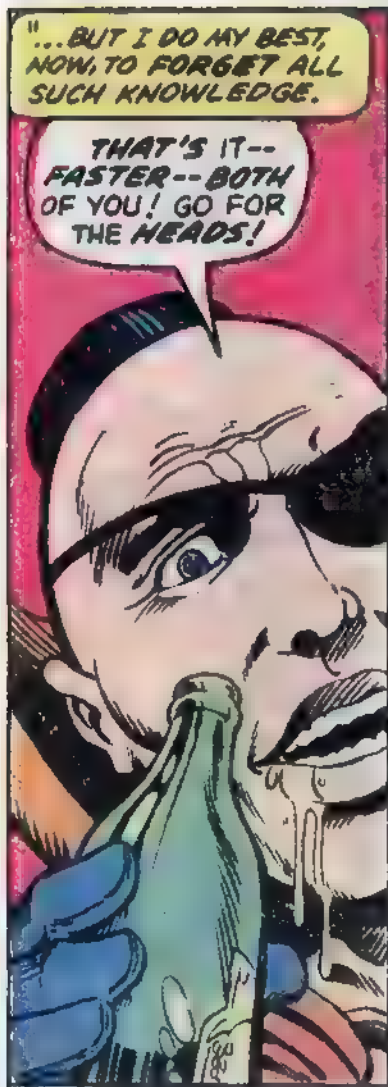


AND YOU HAVE *KNOWN*, THROUGH ALL THOSE *FALSE MOMENTS*, WHAT THE END MUST BE.

WAK



"YES..."



CHOOSE YOUR OWN SUPERHERO
AND PUT IT--

ON YOUR BACK!



THOR



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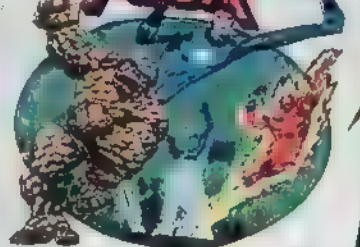
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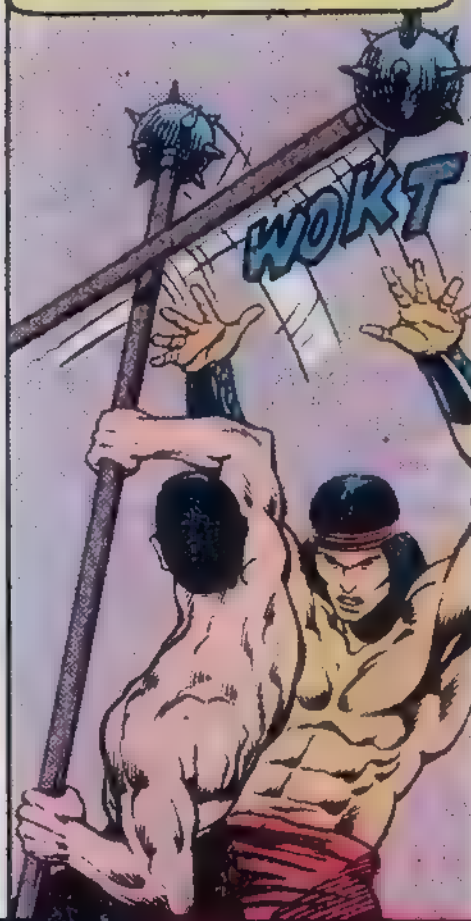
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"NO, THIS SECOND OF TWO FIGHTS WITHOUT A CAUSE, WITHOUT PITY, CANNOT BE DESTINY..."

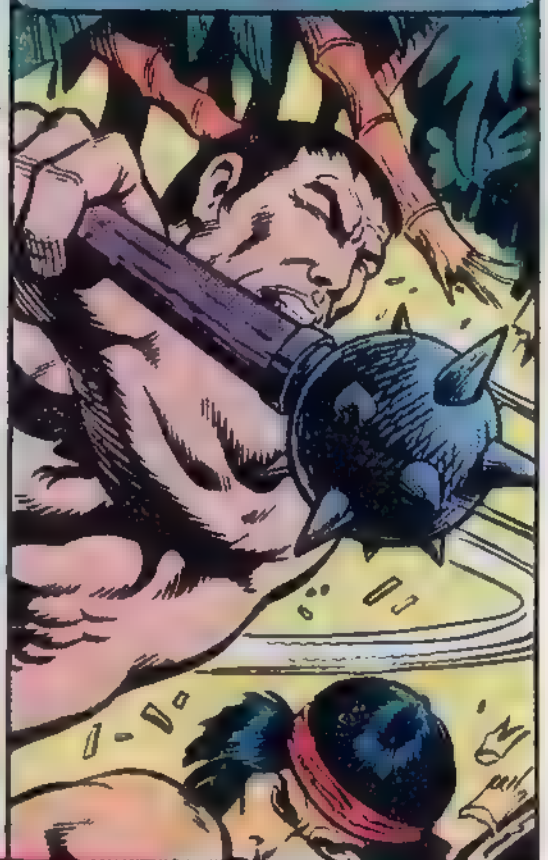


"IT CAN ONLY BE THE MADNESS OF FATE'S CRUEL SPITE."

"A SWIFT DRAINING DANCE TOWARD DEATH."



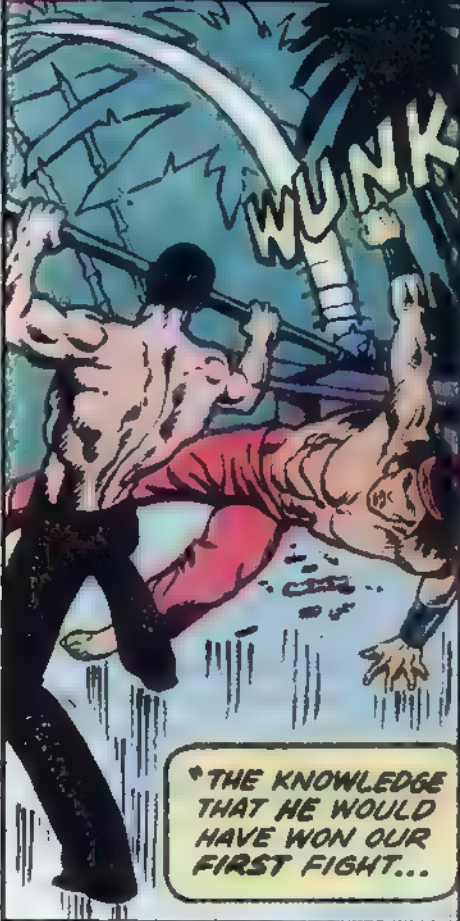
"MY ONLY WEAPON, NOW, IS THE KNOWLEDGE WE BOTH SHARE, GRANTED TO US ON A LONG-AGO BEACH AT SUNSET..."



M-MAYBE... WE SHOULD TRY TO HELP HIM...



NO DICE, DARLIN'-- WAY THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW, WE'D ONLY GET US ALL CHILLED.

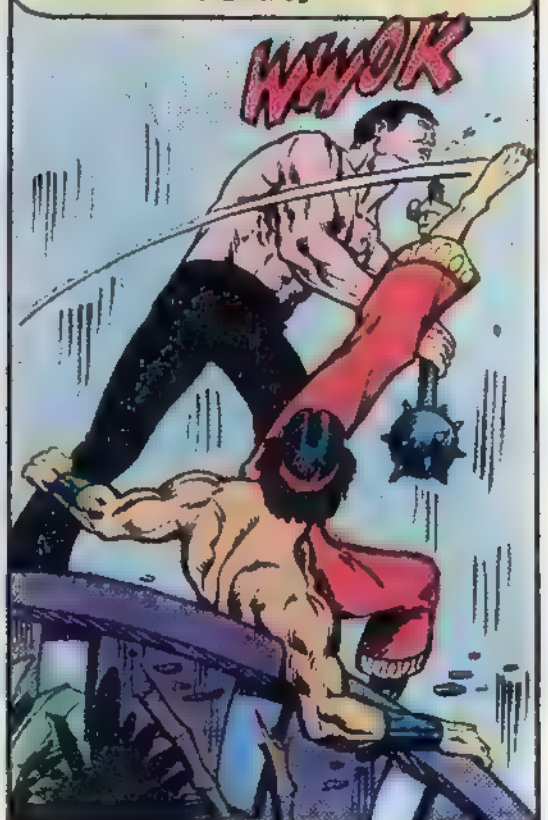


*THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WOULD HAVE WON OUR FIRST FIGHT...

"...KNOWLEDGE WHICH HAS GIFTED HIM WITH CONFIDENCE..."



"...AND STOLEN THAT PART OF THE SURVIVAL INSTINCT CALLED FEAR."

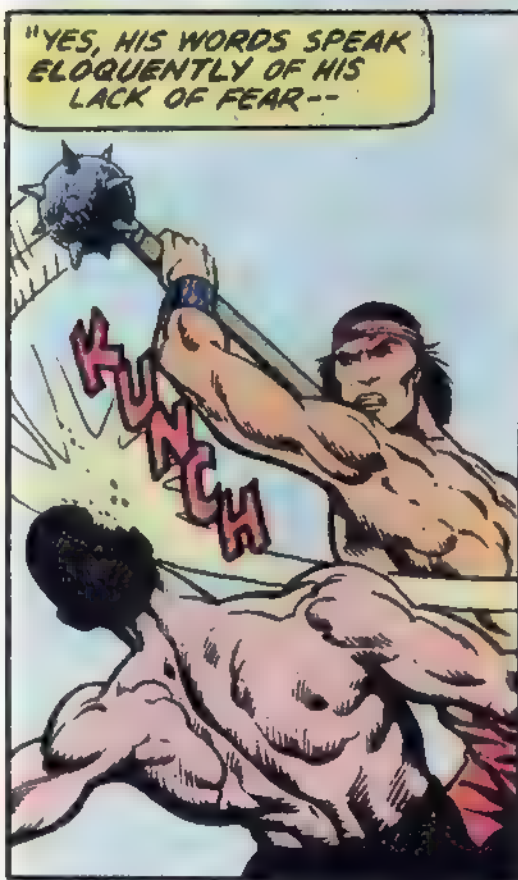




WE ARE BOTH FOOLS, SHEN KUEI.

I AGREE.

AND ONLY ONE FOOL IN TWO CAN HOPE FOR A FUTURE IN WHICH TO PONDER HIS FOLLY.



"YES, HIS WORDS SPEAK ELOQUENTLY OF HIS LACK OF FEAR--



"--AND THE TRULY FEARLESS MAN ALWAYS MAKES A MISTAKE.

SO, BRITISHER, I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH YOU TESTED ME.



COME NOW, CAT-- YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!

REMEMBER IT WAS SHANG-CHI WHO PUT THAT X-MARKED CRATE INTO YOUR BROTHER'S HANDS AND WATCHED AS IT EXPLODED!

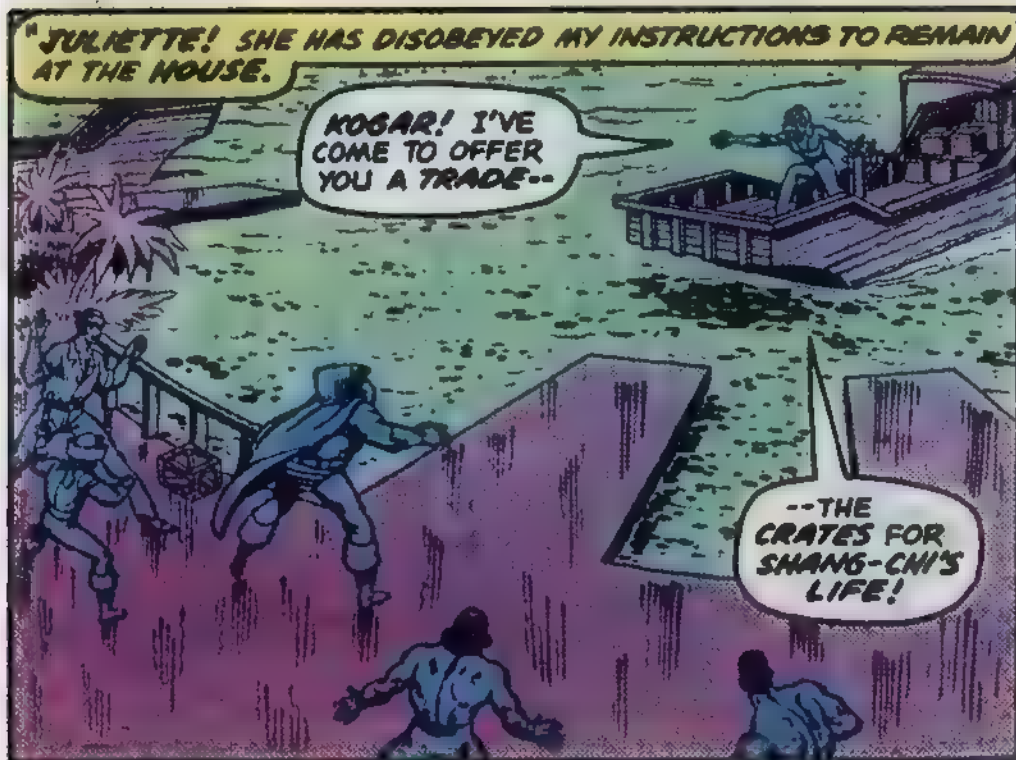


"SHEN KUEI HALTS. HIS HEAD TURNS SLOWLY, AND HIS EYES ARE TERRIBLE, AS SIGHT RETURNS TO HIS HEART...

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CRATE WAS MARKED IN SUCH A MANNER?

UNLESS... THE BRITISHER DID NOT KILL MY BROTHER... BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY YOU WHO--!

STOP!



"JULIETTE! SHE HAS DISOBEYED MY INSTRUCTIONS TO REMAIN AT THE HOUSE."

KOGAR! I'VE COME TO OFFER YOU A TRADE--

--THE CRATES FOR SHANG-CHI'S LIFE!



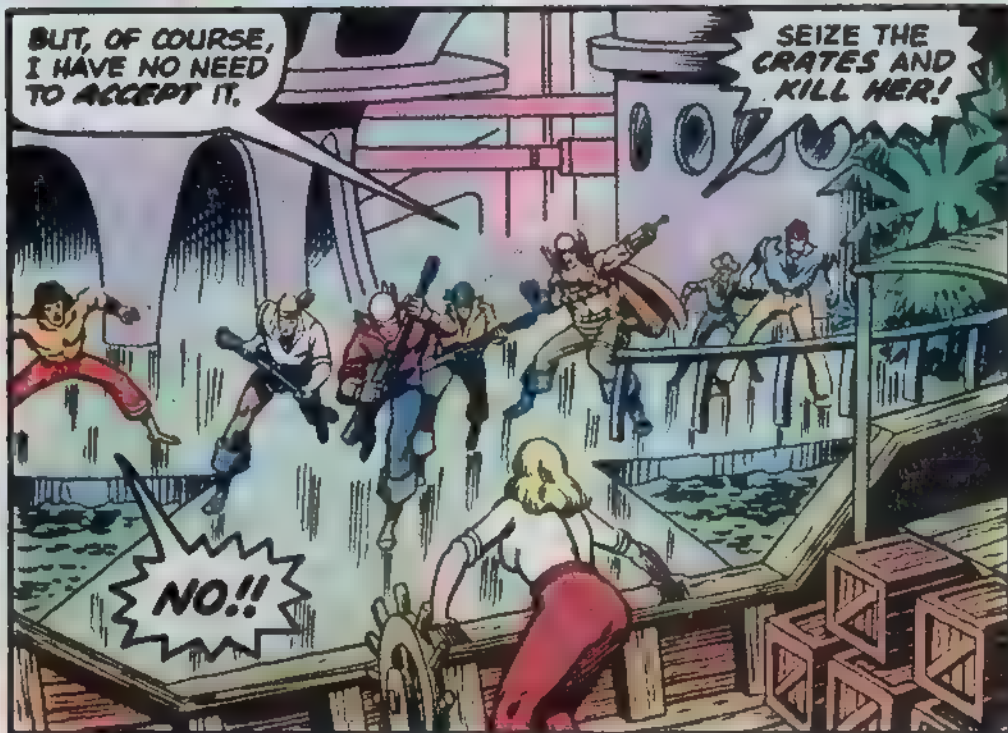
THEN JULIETTE AND SHANG-CHI... THEY--

EASY, DARLIN'... I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.



PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BRING THE CRATES TO THE PIER, JULIETTE, FOR I MUST ADMIT...

... I FIND YOUR DRAMATIC OFFER MOST ATTRACTIVE.



BUT, OF COURSE, I HAVE NO NEED TO ACCEPT IT.

SEIZE THE CRATES AND KILL HER!

NO!!



THIS IS CALLED THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, DARLIN'... TIME TO PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR CHI--

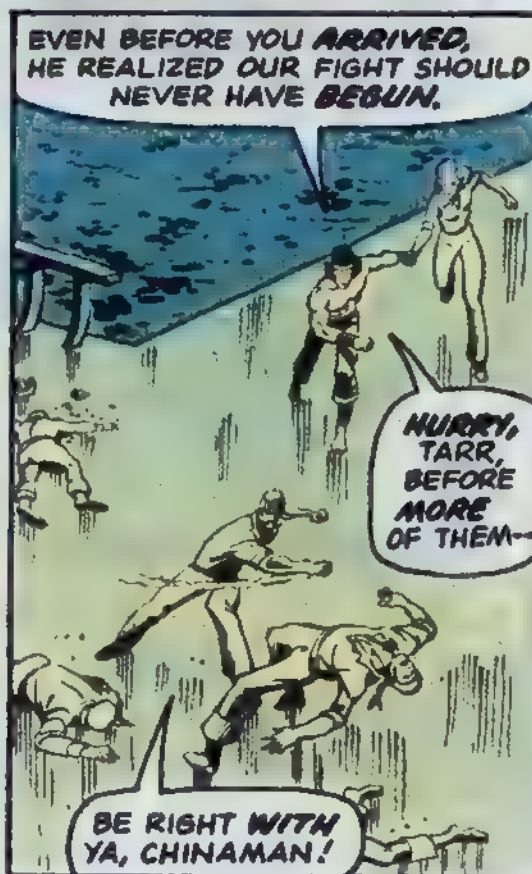
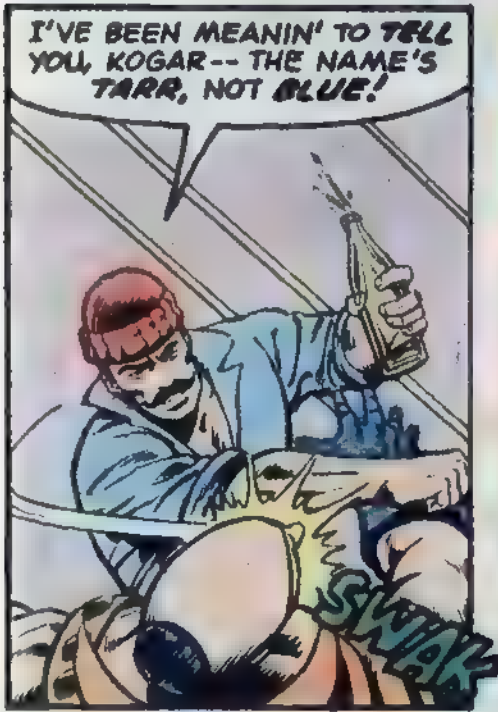
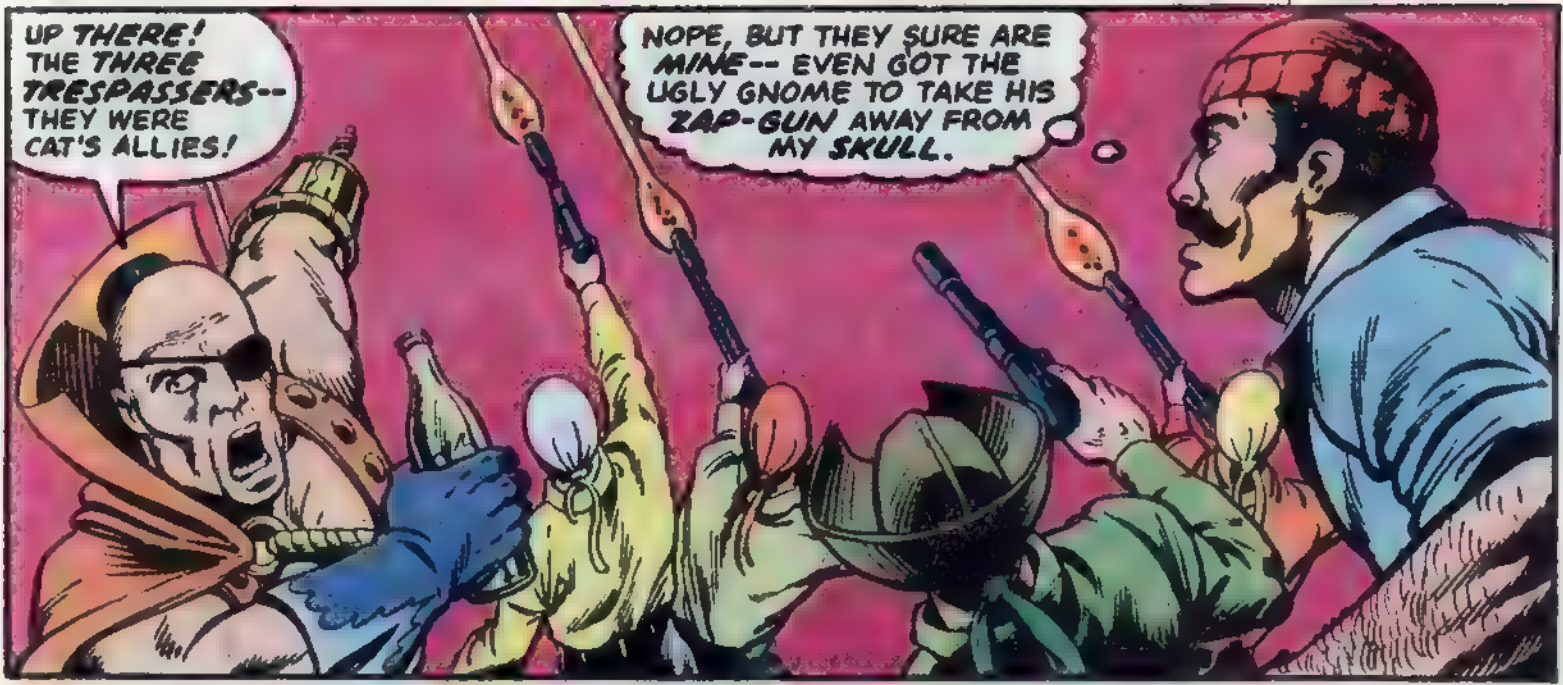
-- BY SAVING THE WOMAN HE LOVES.



YEP, SOMEHOW I KNEW THIS IS HOW YOU'D CONFRONT THE MOMENT...



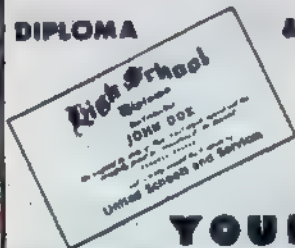
...AND I GUESS IT PUTS AN END TO THOSE NASTY RUMORS ABOUT YOUR FORKED TONGUE.



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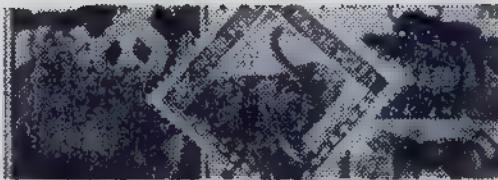
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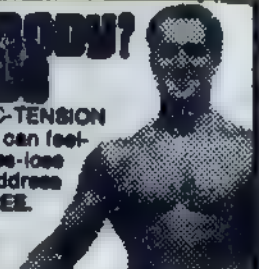
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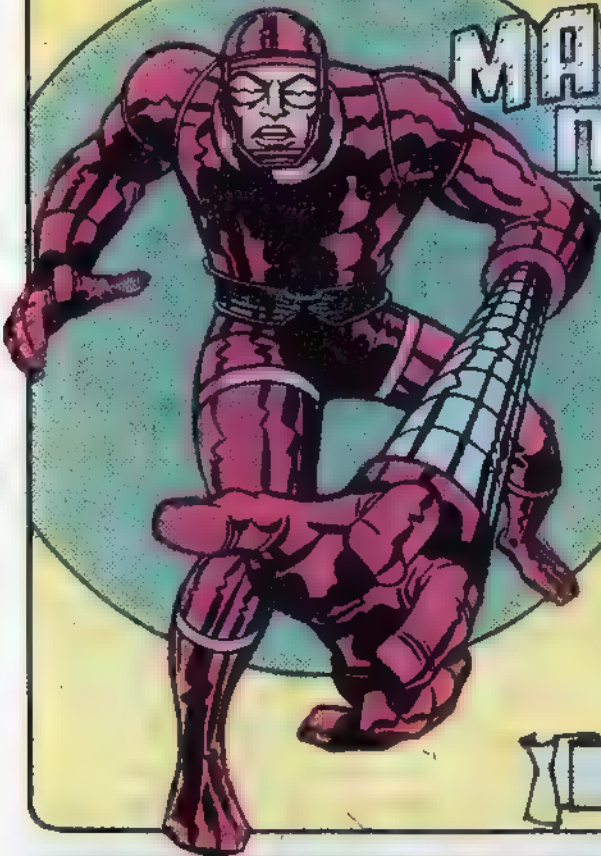
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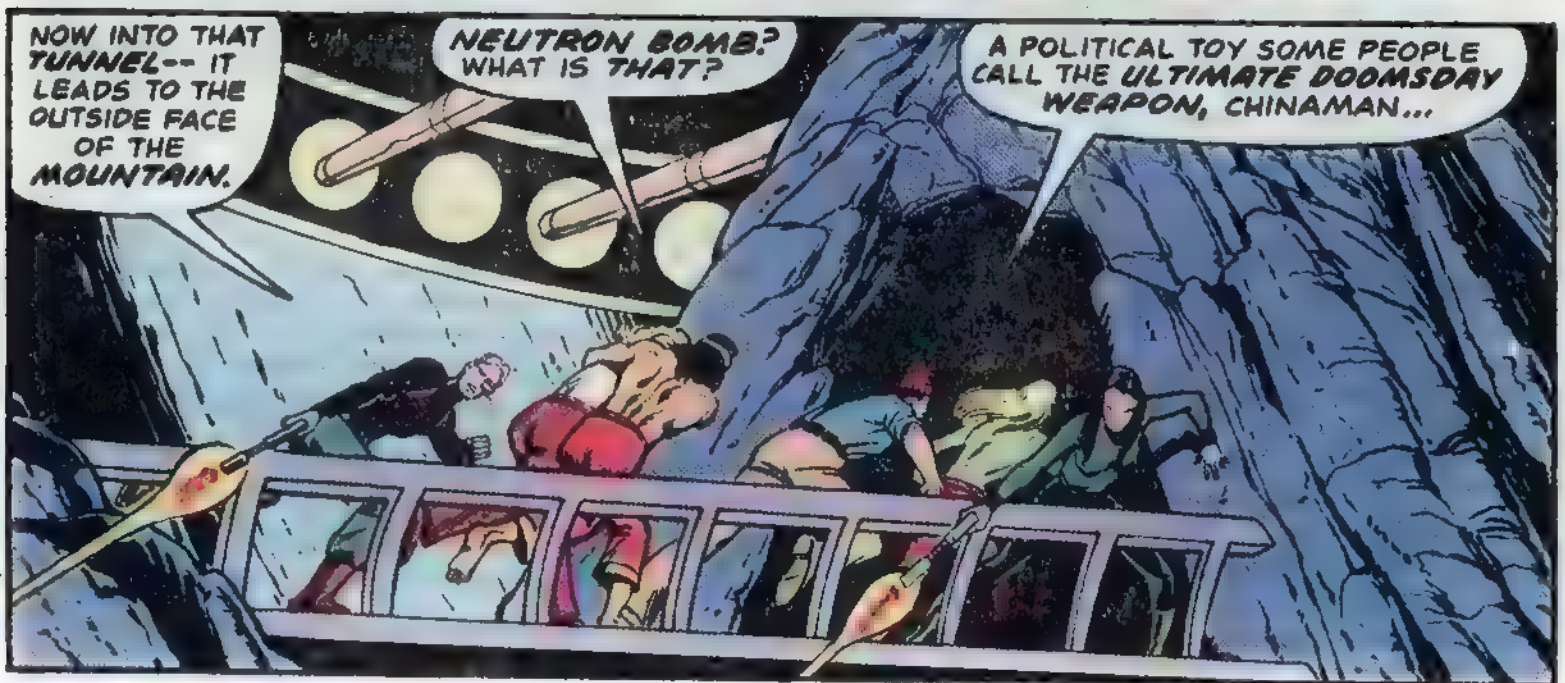
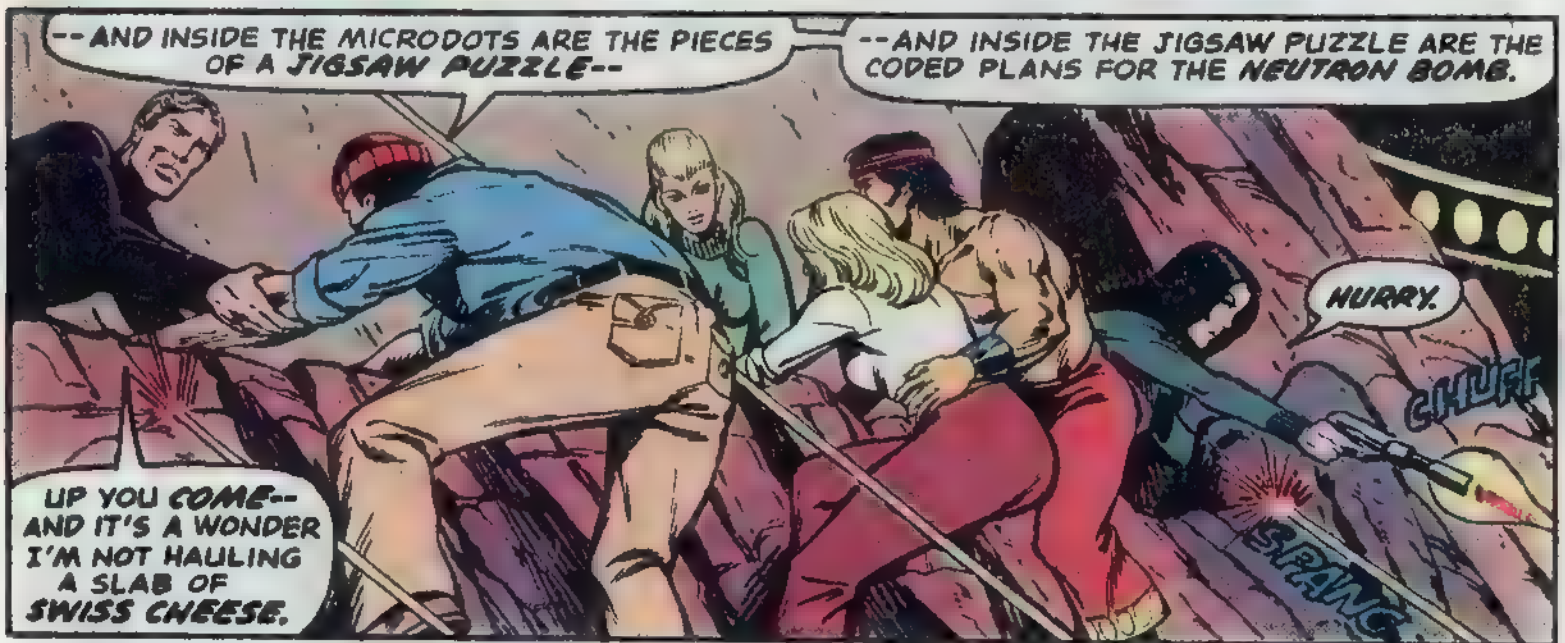
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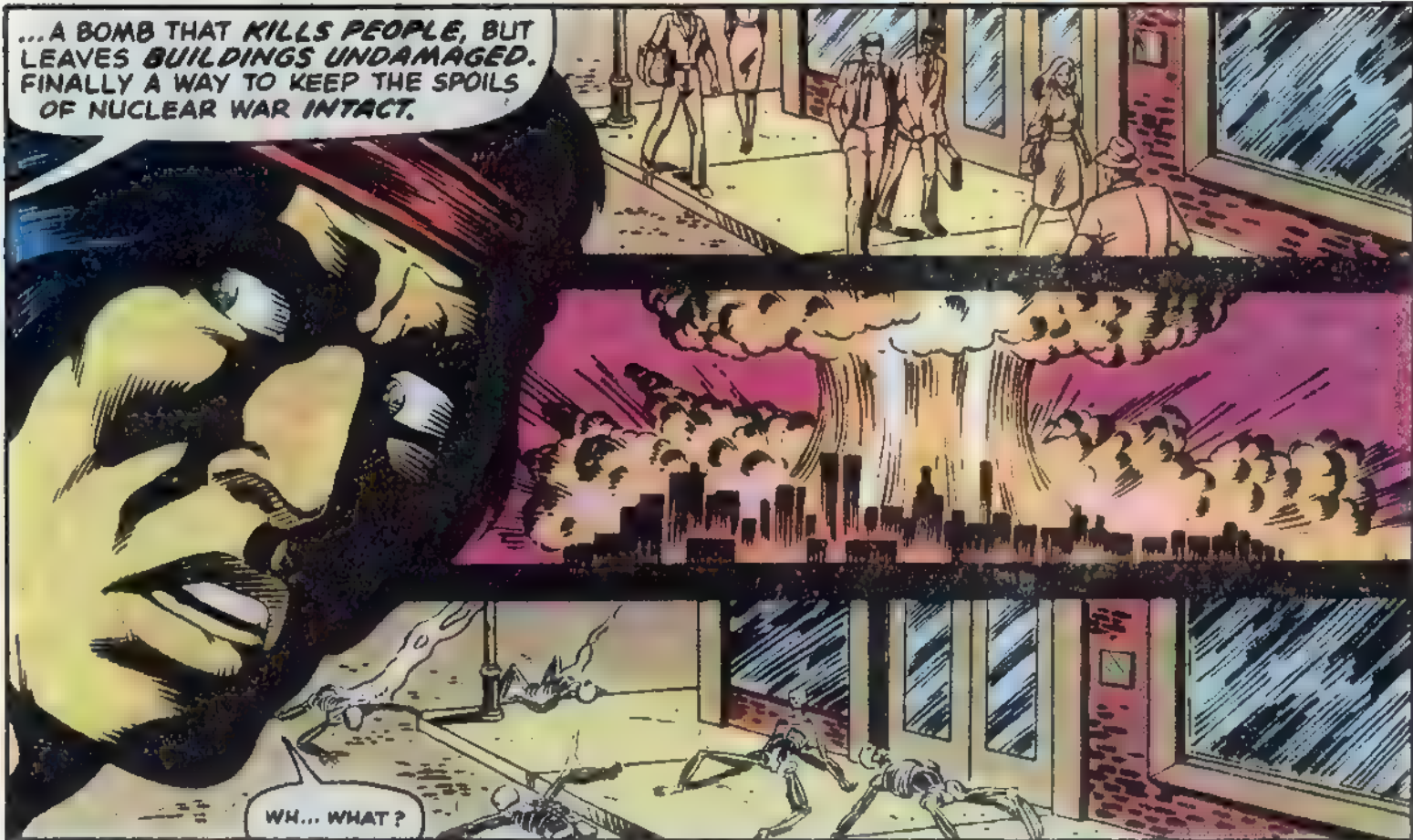
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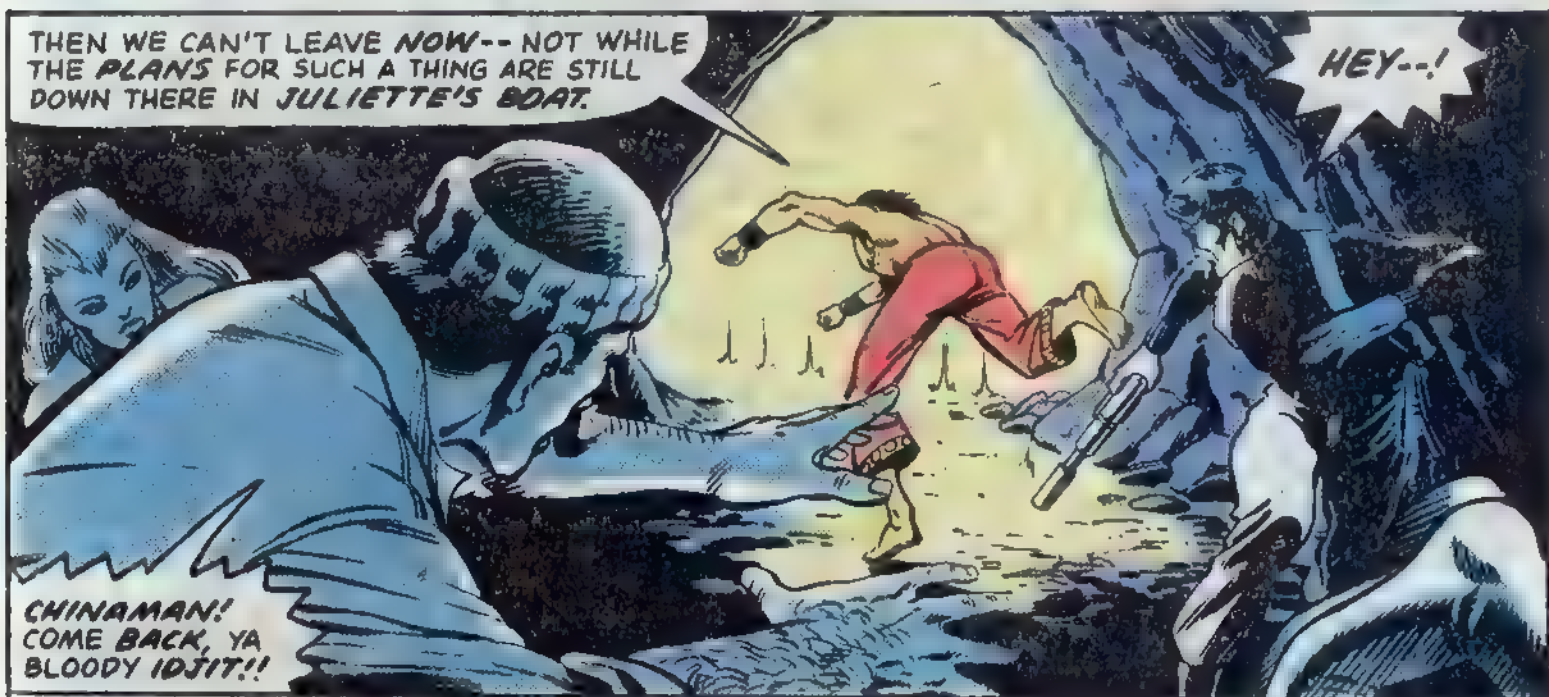
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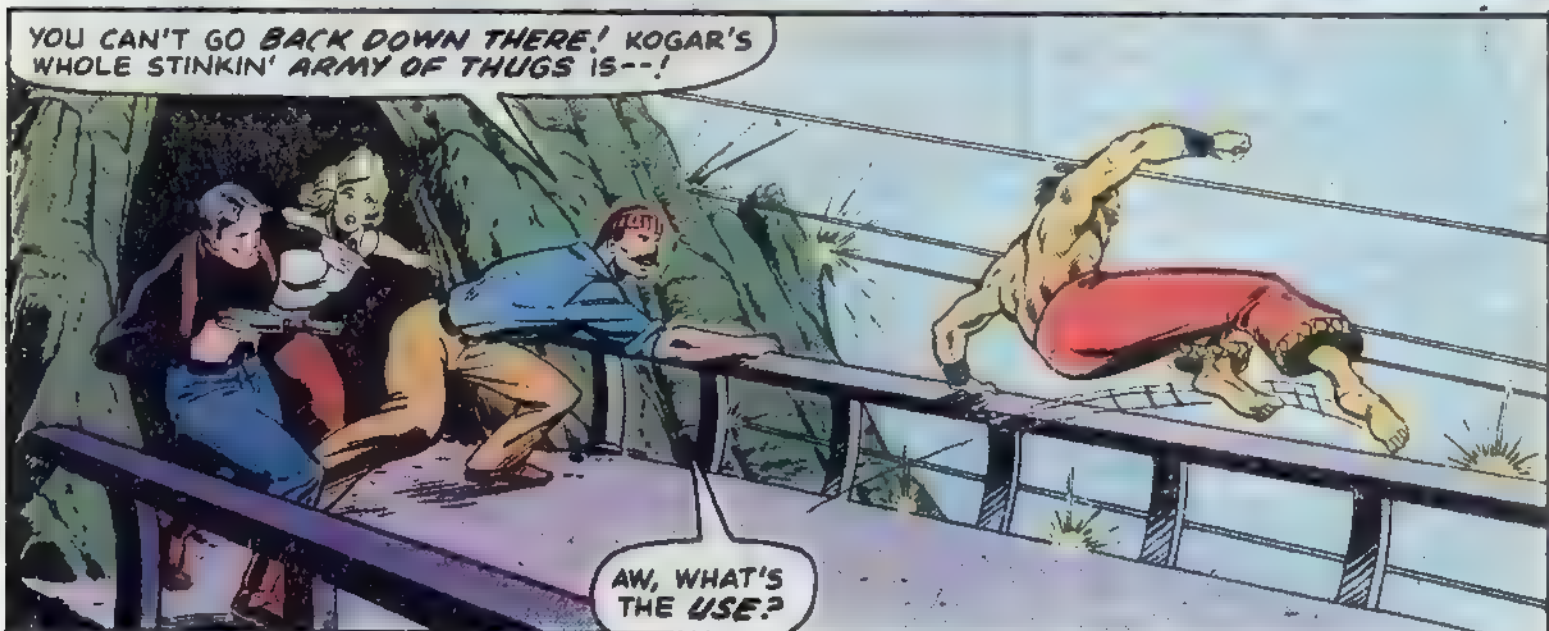
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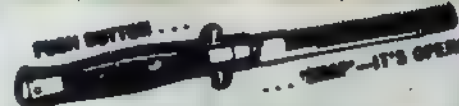
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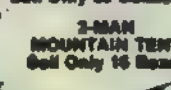
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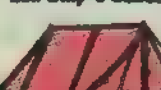
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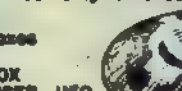
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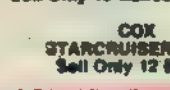
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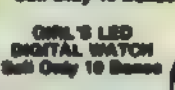
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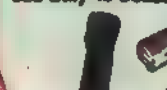
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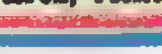
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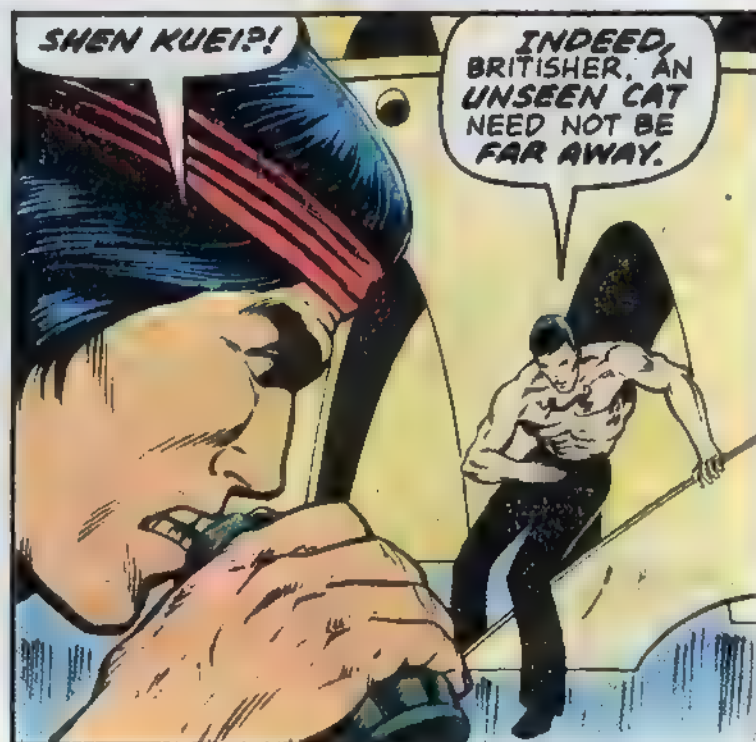
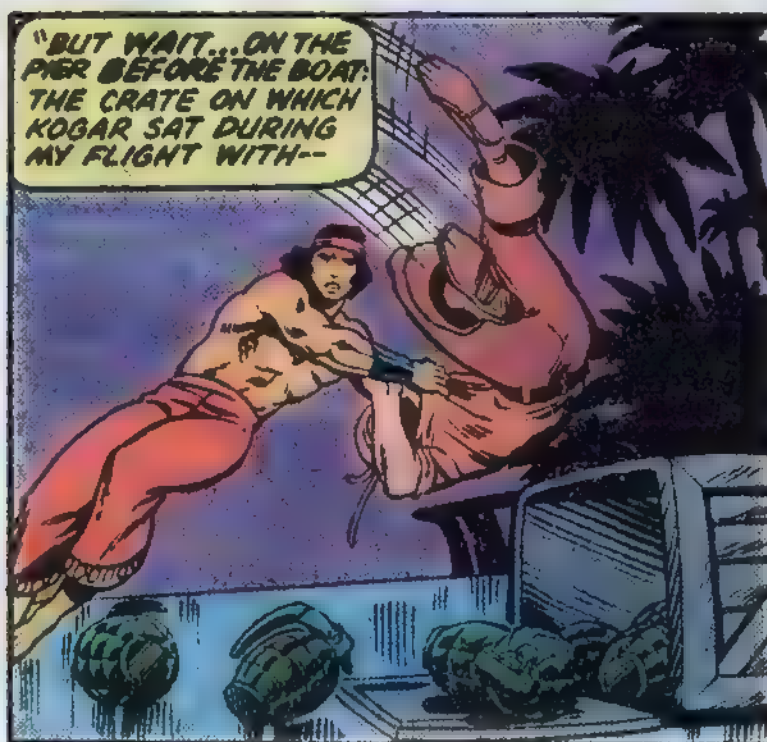
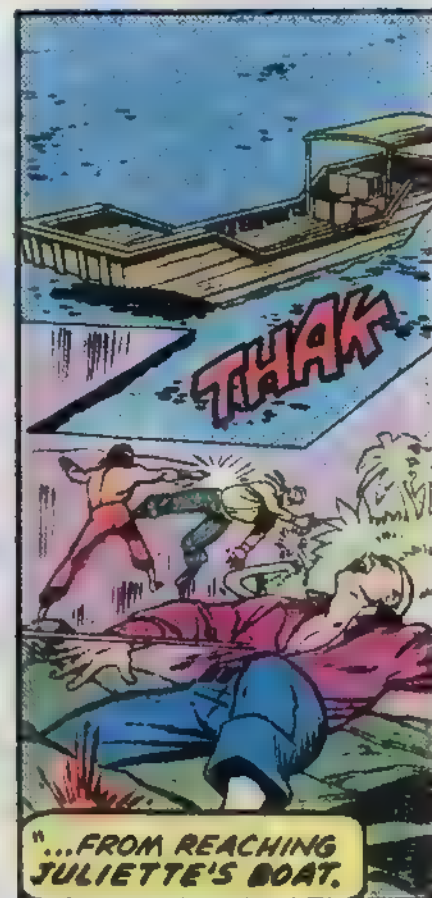
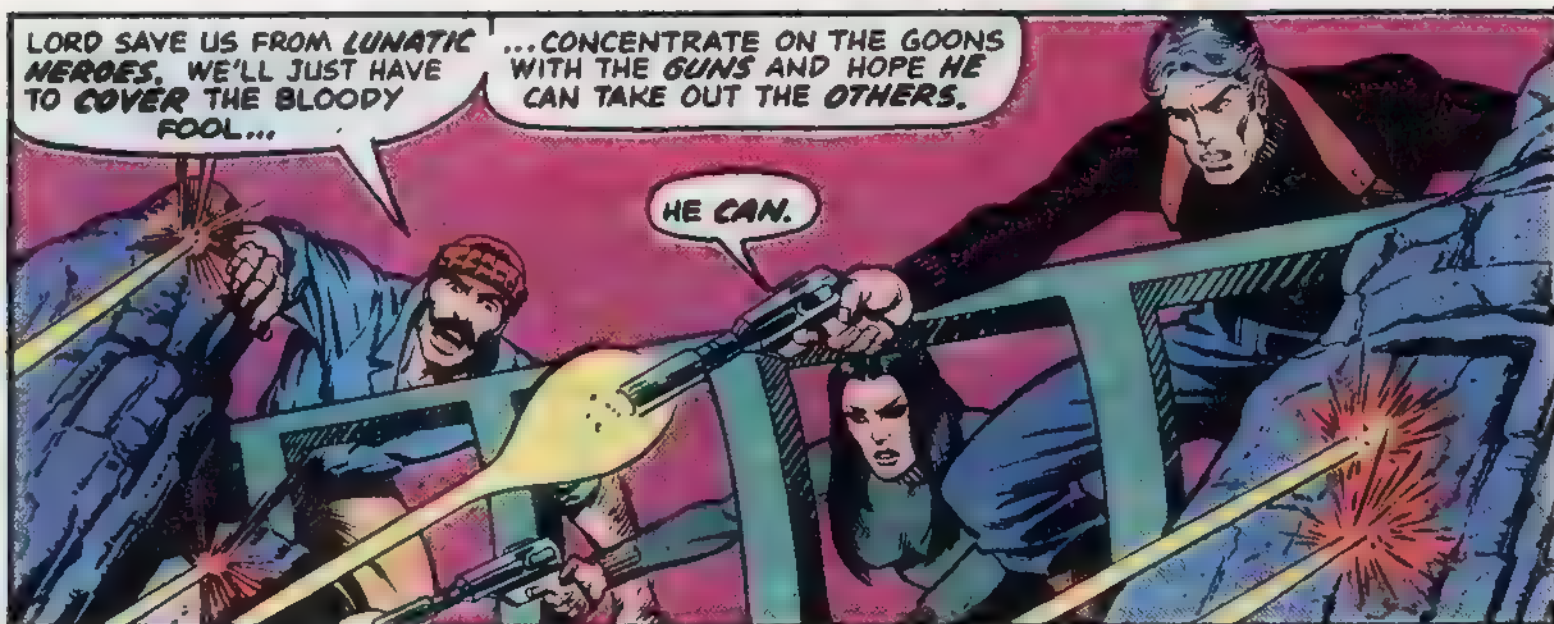


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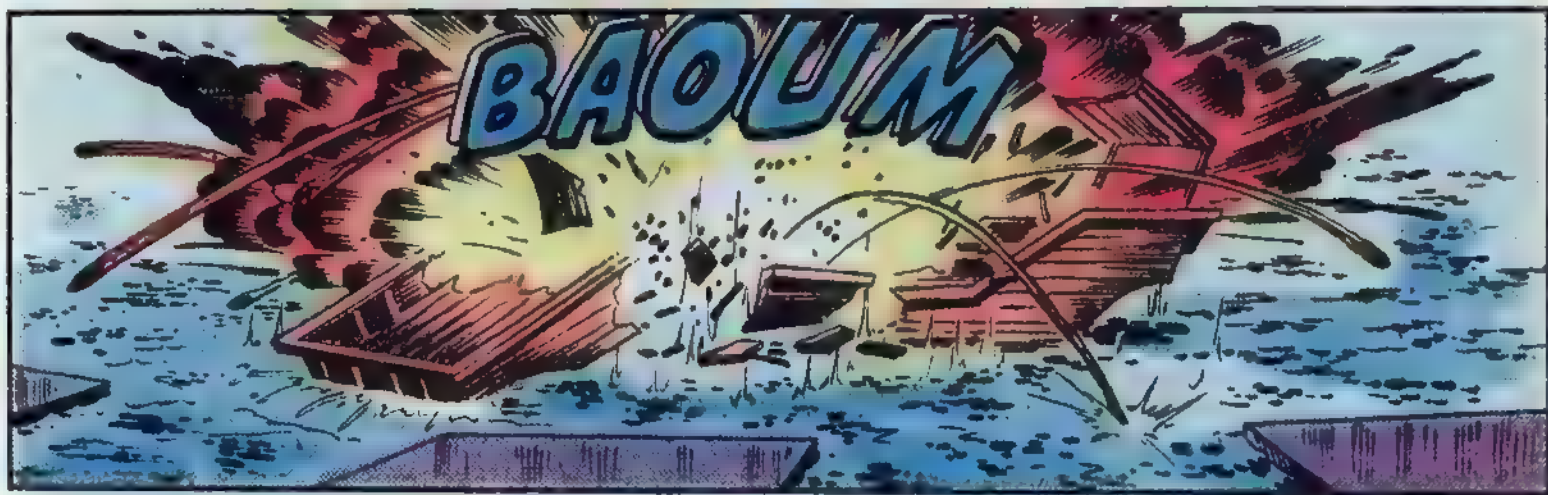
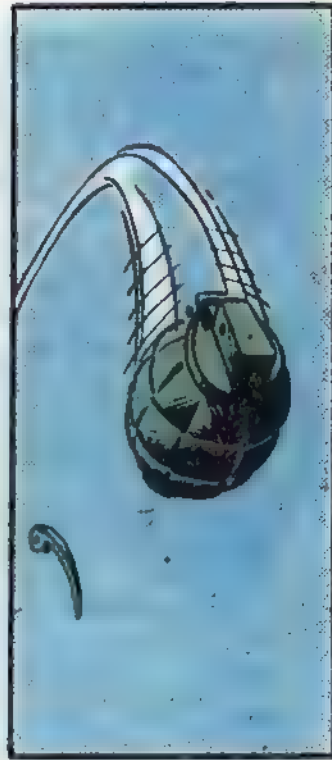


I CAN THROW
THIS AT YOU,
SHEN KUEI...



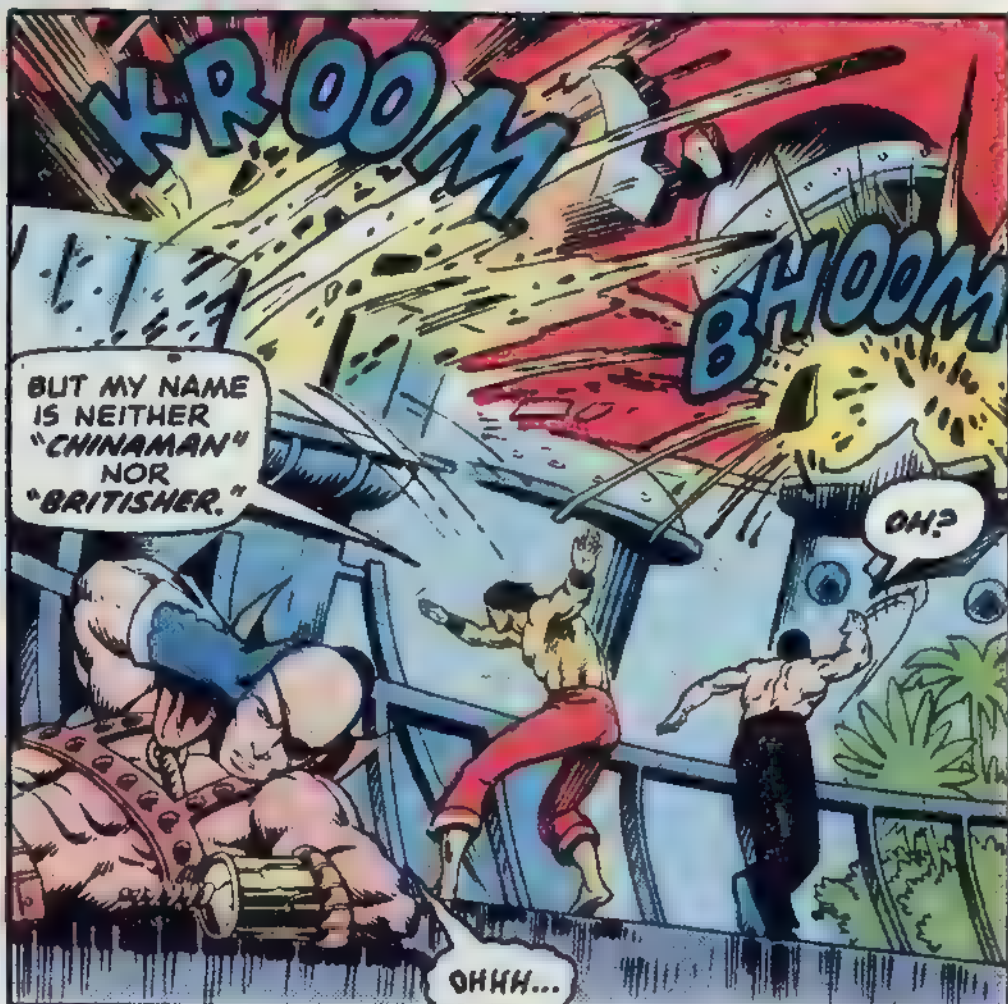
...OR I CAN THROW IT AT
THE CRATES HOLDING THE
SECRET TO MAN'S MOST
TERRIBLE INVENTION.

IS THERE A
CHOICE,
BRITISHER?



I THOUGHT NOT.

NO.



BUT MY NAME
IS NEITHER
"CHINAMAN"
NOR
"BRITISHER."

OH?

OHHH...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Know something? I've gotta learn to speak Japanese! All of a sudden, Marvel is threatening to become the latest and greatest "in" thing in the Land of the Rising Sun! There are special Japanese-version Marvel movies being produced, specially adapted Marvel comics, toys, games, and—for all we know—even Spider-Man Samurai warriors! (We *know* there are SHOGUN warriors, 'cause we're preparing a great new Shogun mag right now, but it's still a secret, so don't let on I toldja!) Anyway, just to totally obfuscate the issue, see if you can figure this one out. These wise and witty words are being written for you in the beginning of March, in order to get them printed in time to go on sale in June! Now stay with this, hear? I'm heading for Japan in the middle of May, which is a couple of months from now ("now" being the time I'm writing this)! I'm bustin' to tell you all about my trip, but I can't 'cause I haven't gone yet; although by the time you read this I'll have been back for about a month! See why I'm always mixed up? See why we always tell you that Marvel time is different than "real world" time? See why, when someone asks me the date, I panic and run for the hills? But now, before you get too emotional about this, let's welcome all our Japanese friends on board; and, to all of them, and all of you, the mighty voices of Marveldom Assembled now cry out: "YO! toh-MOH-dah-chi ill nah-Ri-mah-shoh; NAH-kah yoh-ku shi-MAH-shoh", which, as all True Believers know, means "Let us be good friends"! And, if the omnipotent Odin will return the Silver Surfer's curling iron to him, one of these days I'll teach you how to say ill in English!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! First things first! Our humblest apologies to plucky PETRA GOLDBERG for failing to mention in last month's Bullpen Bulletins her outstanding contribution to Marvel Super Special #4 featuring THE BEATLES STORY. Petra is responsible for the splendid *coloring* therein—but since every alert Marvelite already possesses his very own copy, you all knew that anyway.

ITEM! It seems that congratulations are in order for none other than Dauntless DON MCGREGOR. Early this April, the lucky guy wed a certain lovely lady by the name of Marsha Childers, and t'would appear they'll both be on Cloud 9 for quite a while! We at the Bullpen would like to join Marveldom Assembled in wishing the newlyweds all the best.

ITEM! Speaking of Don McGregor, somehow, during what *had* to have been rather hectic weeks before his wedding, the Dauntless One

managed to script the masterful tale appearing in MARVEL PREMIERE #43. The story features PALADIN, a hard-fisted, sharp-shooting, mildly mercenary sensation first introduced in the pages of DAREDEVIL by JIM (Trouble) SHOOTER. Seldom has a new character evoked such an overwhelming ovation, and so natch, the ever-eager-to-please Bullpen wasted little time bringing him back in his own showcase. It's magnificently illustrated by Tap-dancin' TOM SUTTON and it's on sale now! And by the way, any resemblance between Paladin's damsel-in-distress and Don's blushing bride is probably his doing!



ITEM! Special Events abound this month! After seeming ages of hard work by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Rampagin' RON WILSON, and Redoubtable RICARDO VILLAMONTE, the first full-color magazine-size issue of THE HULK is finally on sale—and is it a doozie! Yours for only a pittance—a mere \$1.50—it portrays the Emerald Behemoth in a manner befitting the mightiest mortal ever to walk the earth. It's all there—the power, the hate, the triumph and the tragedy—truly this is an *epic*! As if the art and story weren't enough, this issue also features a full-color *photo section* devoted to the smash-sensation *Incredible Hulk* TV show! Get to your newsstand fast, before they're all gone!

ITEM! Also hot off the presses and available for your reading pleasure is the first Simon and Schuster Pocket Book featuring DOCTOR STRANGE! It's a real collector's item, recalling the Master Mage's earliest and earliest encounters as dazzlingly depicted by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko! The back cover *alone* is worth the price of admission!

ITEM! More news from Simon and Schuster! THE MIGHTY MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FUN BOOK #3 is in the bookstores now just waiting to provide untold hours of entertainment for Marvel Minions. Check it out!

ITEM! Whew! Sometimes we get so caught up in all the fanfare for exceptional items and once-in-a-lifetime deals we almost forget to mention the things that made Marvel great in the first place—namely our regular comics that month after month quietly maintain an incredible standard of excellence—the solid backbone of the line. One such title is CONAN, which as every True Believer knows, is fast approaching its 100th issue. Rascally ROY THOMAS, writer and editor of both the CONAN color comic and THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN black-and-white magazine, has consistently provided excellent stories and arranged for some of the very best artists anywhere to illustrate them. In addition to Big JOHN BUSCEMA, perennial Conan penciller and Eighth Wonder of the World, ALFREDO ALCALA, CARMINE INFANTINO, GENE COLAN, and FRANK BRUNNER have all recently illustrated adventures of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian, each in his own distinctive, trend-setting style. Thus, barbarian-watchers will be treated to varied visual delights in upcoming months, and we promise you'll love every minute of it.

ITEM! While we're on the subject of visual delights, we trust that everyone is as enamored of the precise pencilling of Jocular JOHN BYRNE as we are. A recent copy of X-MEN should serve as proof that our favorite denizen of the Frozen North has truly risen to Superstar Status! John visited us here in civilization while attending the March *Creation Convention*, and delighted everyone with his warmth and wit. He's a great talent and a nice guy. Ask any Armadillo.



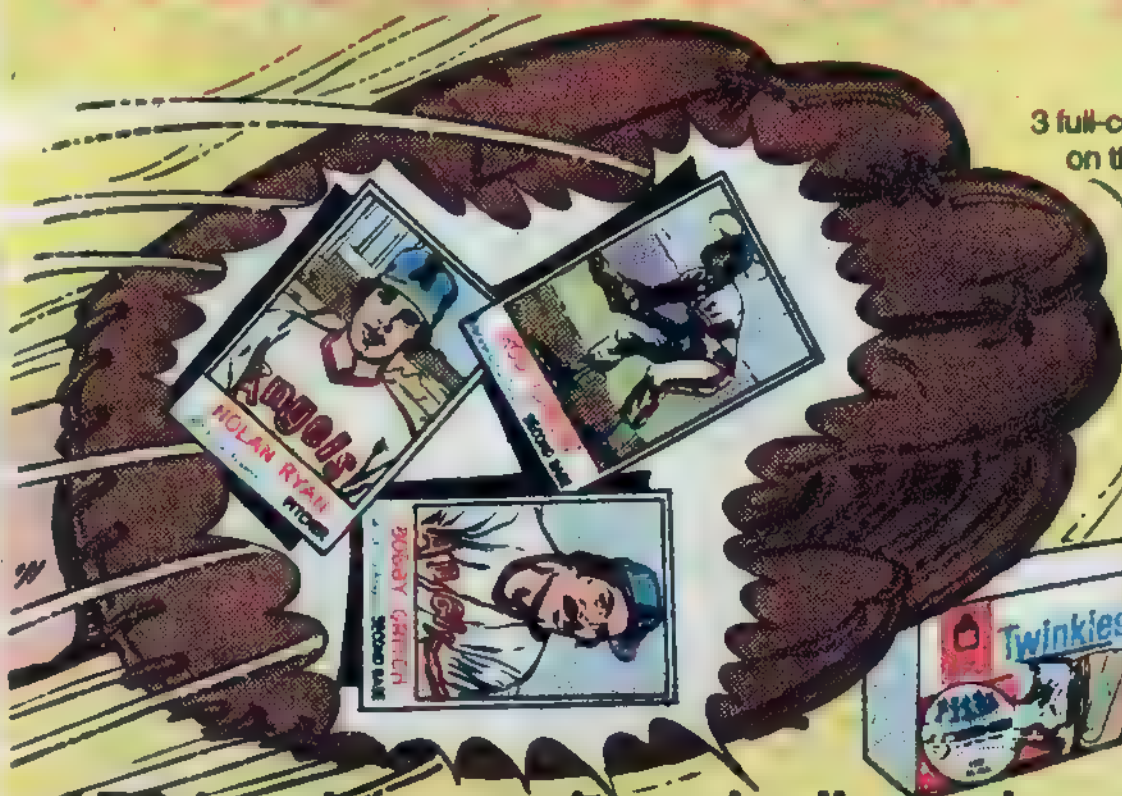
ITEM! Just a final note which lends credence to our belief that Mighty Marvel is taking over the world—Did you know that in the smash Broadway musical extravaganza, BEATLEMANIA, a whole passle of Marvel characters are featured in the multimedia presentation? Notable among them are Magneto, Spitfire, Ms. Marvel, Miss America, the Whizzer, Captain America, the Sub-Mariner, Iron Fist, Power Man, and more! Isn't fame wonderful? Hoo-hah!

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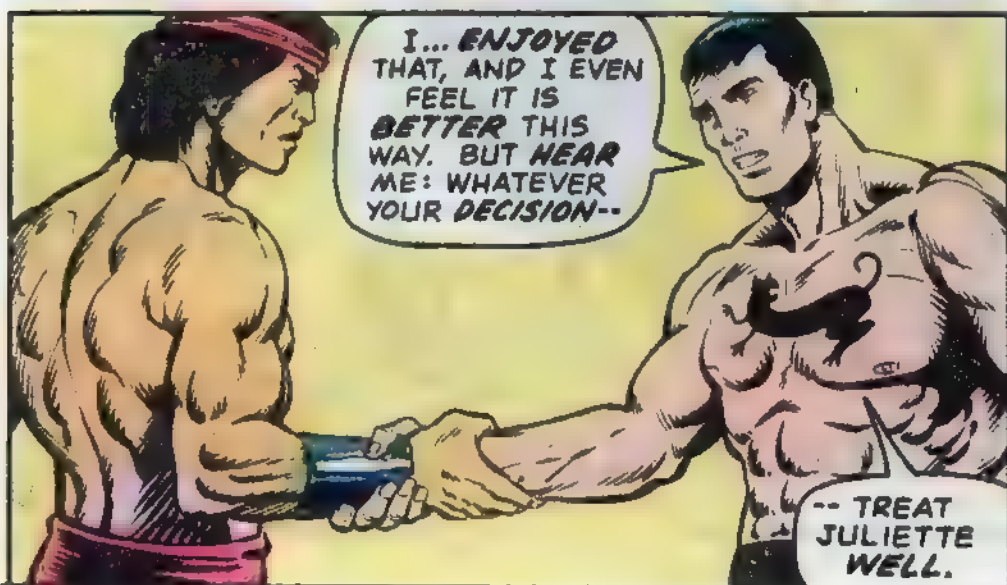
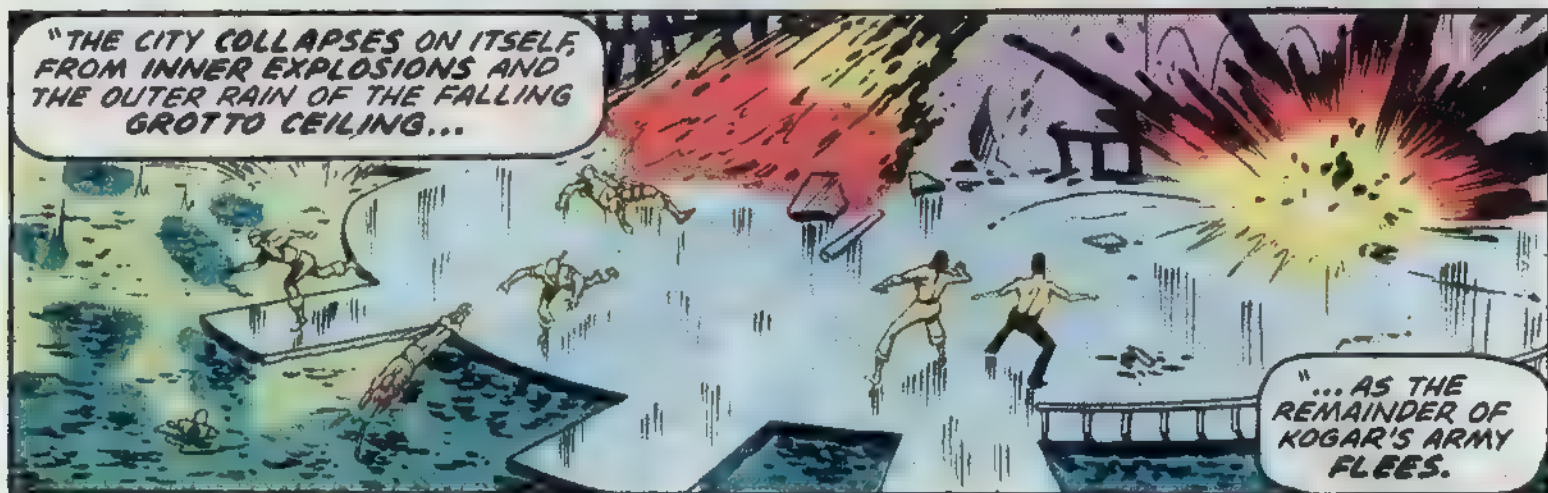
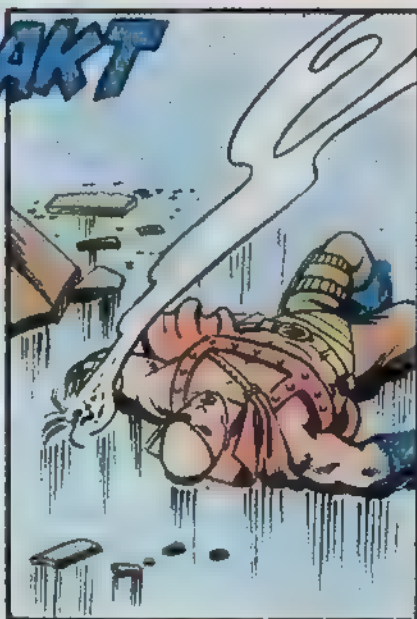
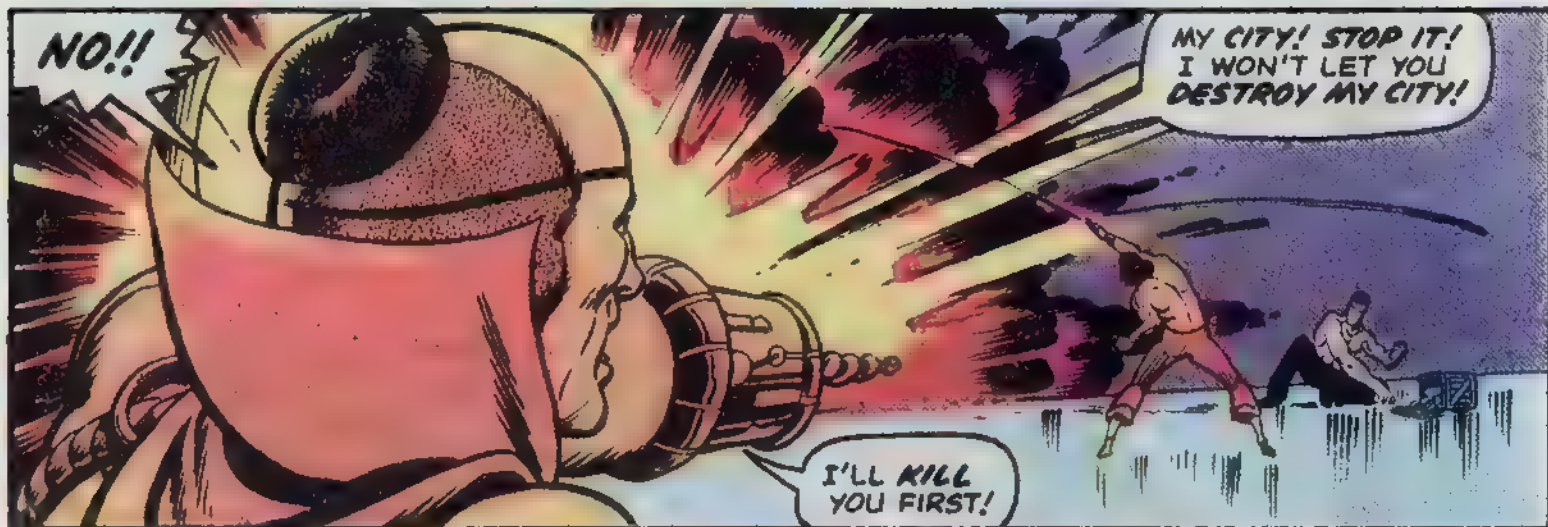


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CHARMED LIVES AS THAT
BLOODY CAT HAS. WE'LL
MEET YOU OUTSIDE!



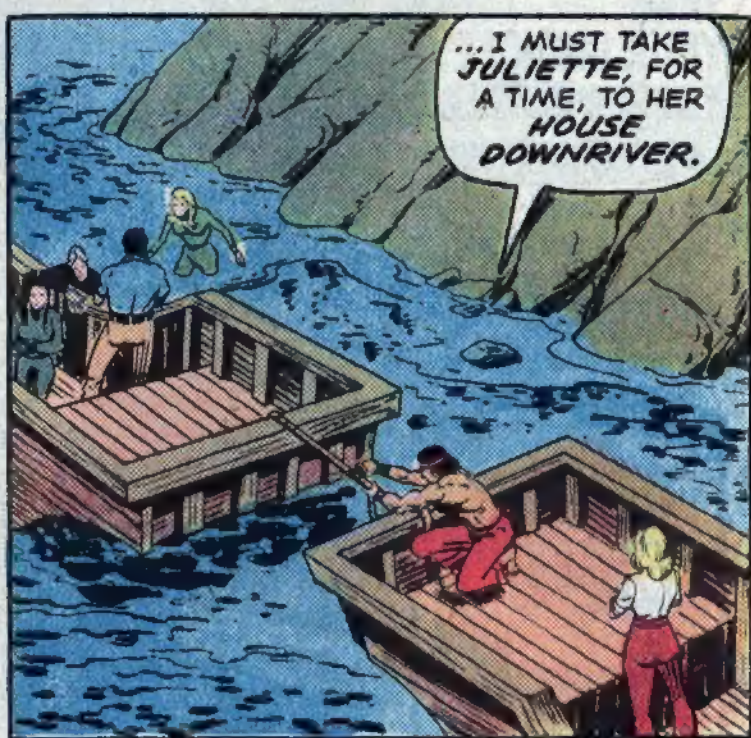
"... FOR SOMEONE AWAITS
ME AS WELL."



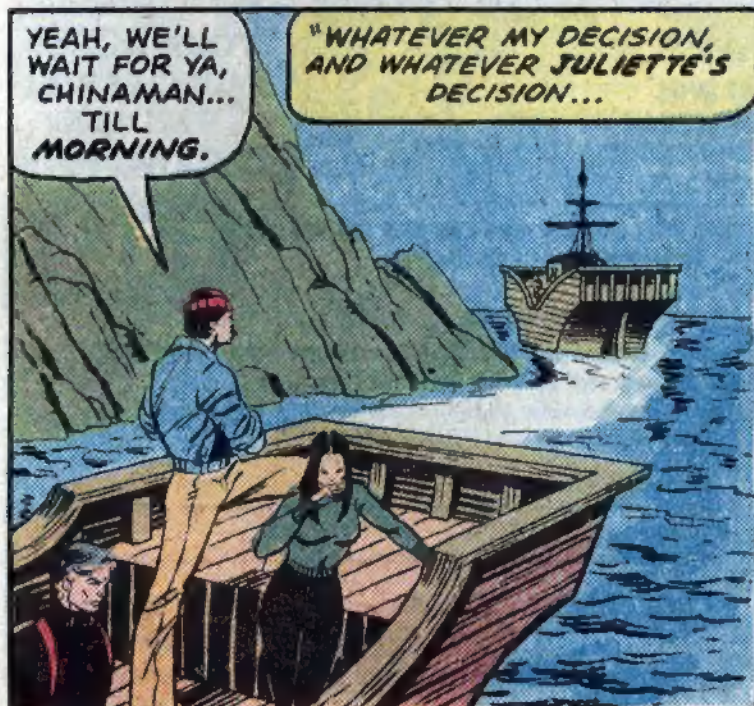
EPILOGUE:

WHY TWO BOATS,
CHINAMAN?

IF YOU
WILL WAIT
FOR ME
HERE...



... I MUST TAKE
JULIETTE, FOR
A TIME, TO HER
HOUSE
DOWNRIVER.



YEAH, WE'LL
WAIT FOR YA,
CHINAMAN...
TILL
MORNING.

"WHATEVER MY DECISION,
AND WHATEVER JULIETTE'S
DECISION..."



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ALMOST LIKE
MAGIC!**



**FAT?
FAT WILL
DISAPPEAR —
REPLACED BY
MUSCLES!**



**YOUR NEW
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